[28th September 1956

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : At present, the answer is in the negative. But staggering restrictions were in force during the period 1st April to 29th June 1956 on account of low water storage in the hydel reservoirs. These restrictions are no longer in force.

Maintenance of temples in areas of Travancore-Cochin State to be incorporated in Madras State

* 268 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have sent any communication to the Travancore-Cochin State during the year 1956 with regard to the maintenance of 1,500 temples in five taluks of Travancore-Cochin State that are proposed to be incorporated in the Madras State after the Reorganization of States;

(b) whether this matter was referred to the Central Government for a fair solution; and

(c) whether the Government have been asked to give a share to the New Kerala State for the maintenance of these temples?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (a) to (c) Under Article 238 (10) & (11) of the Constitution, a sum of Rs. 51 lakhs stood charged on the Consolidated Fund of the Travancore-Cochin State and this was payable by that State to the Travancore Devaswom Board annually for the maintenance of the temples in that State. At a meeting held at New Delhi in May 1956 by the Government of India with the representatives of the Governments of Madras and the Travancore-Cochin, the following decisions have been reached :—

(1) The liability of the Madras Government and that of the New Kerala Government to contribute towards the maintenance of the temples in the areas situated in their respective jurisdictions should be fixed at Rs. 13·5 lakhs and Rs. 37·5 lakhs respectively.

(2) The assets of the Travancore-Cochin Devaswom Board should be divided between the Madras State and the Kerala State in the ratio of 13·5 : 37·5.

9–10 a.m. SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Sir, it seems that the Government have written to the Travancore-Cochin Government regarding the maintenance of the temples. May I know whether this Government have received any reply and, if so, why this Government's share has been reduced?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : This is the arrangement which has been agreed to by the representatives of the Government of Madras and the Government of Travancore-Cochin. I do not know what answer the hon. Member expects from me and to which point the hon. Member refers. There is no paper pending with the Government of Madras in this matter.